the want of authentic descriptions of sufficient antiquity. One of the oldest satisfactory accounts of it is that of Gerarde in 1597, who has published a description and figure of this plant, and states that it was introduced into England by himself, from seeds received from Constantinople. [*Note* A.]

Its common name in Europe, derived from the form of its fruit, is *Thorn apple.* In this country its provincial names are *Apple* of *Peru*, *Devil's apple*, and *Jamestown weed.* It is a plant of rank growth and luxuriant foliage, varying in height from one to six feet, according to the soil in which it grows. In Carolina it begins to flower in May, and in Massachusetts about the latter part of July, and continues until the arrival of frosts.

The Datura Stramonium belongs to the first order of the fifth class in the Linnæan artificial arrangement. In its natural order it is found among the Luridæ of Linnæus and the Solaneæ of Jussieu. The following are the essential marks which characterize the genus Datura. *The corolla funnel form and plaited. The calyx tubular, angular and deciduous. The capsule four valved.*—Under this genus are comprehended a number of species, a great part of which are natives of warm latitudes. The species Stramonium is distinguished from the rest by the following character. *Capsules thorny, erect, ovate; leaves ovate, angular, smooth.*—A more particular description of the plant is as follows. Stem erect, simple at bottom, much branched at top by repeated forks, smooth or slightly pubescent, hollow in the large plants, often solid in small ones. Leaves given off from the forks of the stem, five or six inches long, acute, irregularly sinuated and toothed, with large acute teeth and round sinuses, the sides of the base extending unequally down the petiole. Flowers single, axillary, on short stalks, erect or nodding. Calyx composed of one leaf, tubular, with five angles and five teeth, deciduous by breaking off from its base. Corolla funnel shaped with a long tube, five angled, its margin waved and folded, and terminating in five acuminate teeth. Stamens growing to the tube by their filaments, with oblong erect anthers. Germ superior, hairy with the rudiments of spines, ovate; style as long as the stamens; stigma obtuse, parted at base. Capsule ovate, fleshy, covered with thorns, four valved, four celled, opening at top. Seeds numerous, reniform, black, attached to a longitudinal receptacle, which occupies the centre of each cell.

At least two distinct varieties of Datura Stramonium are common in the United States. One

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